

# POINT

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

# 3

September  
1997



TOC H

Bringing people together



## POINT 3

**Toc H is about people.** Founded in 1915, Toc H fights to break down barriers by challenging individuals' preconceptions of others and the divisions which exist in society. While its work is based on Christian principles, all faiths and none are recognised and accepted.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems such as loneliness, isolation and deprivation through an approach which focuses on self-help and taking responsibility for oneself and the local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to emphasise four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its membership. The Four Points of the Toc H Compass are:

**1 Friendship: 'To Love Widely'**

to 'welcome all in friendship'.

**2 Service: 'To Build Bravely'**

to 'give personal service'.

**3 Fairmindedness: 'To Think Fairly'**

to 'listen always to the views of others'.

**4 The Kingdom of God: 'To Witness Humbly'**

to 'acknowledge the spiritual nature of man'.

**Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H**, and derives its title from the third Point of the Toc H Compass. It acts as a vehicle for communication between staff and members, informing, encouraging and stimulating readers on topical and relevant issues. Contributions are welcome from any group or individual involved in Toc H.

**Editor:** Sarah Claridge

Toc H Central Services, 1 Forest Close,  
Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

Tel: 01296 623911 Fax: 01296 696137

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- The opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor or Toc H.
- While Point 3 is made available to all members and staff free of charge, a voluntary contribution towards the cost of production and mailing is welcomed.
- Printed on chlorine-free, environmentally-friendly paper.

**Cover Photo:** HRH the Duke of Kent at Talbot House in July (see page 7)

**Toc H is an active Movement of people practising reconciliation by being open to all in friendship, offering service in the community, confronting intolerance and prejudice, and discovering a faith to live by. We bring the Toc H experience to as many people as possible to develop personal growth and build caring communities.**

**Registered Charity No. 211042**



*Dear Members and Friends*

The CEC last met in early July, too late for my Briefing to be included in the July issue. Central Councillors have, however, had a full Briefing and I hope by now most, if not all, of what I have to share with you is 'old' news. However do please

contact your Central Councillor for more information if you have not already done so.

**Toc H Germany** - I earlier reported to you that the CEC had taken the decision to close down our work in Germany. This painful task has now been fully completed. I am pleased to tell you that all the Toc H Centres have been taken over by other organisations including our Centre Managers and their staff. Jane Bridgeman, Development Officer Germany, remains in Germany now working for WRVS. The process of handover has gone smoothly although we have been beset by a particular financial problem related to our past work, which we are in the process of resolving. Your Central Councillor has more information.

• **Group 88** - again, I have briefed you on this in the past. Further discussions have now taken place with the leaders of Group 88 and I can confirm that a resolution proposing that Group 88 becomes part of Toc H will be going forward to Central Council in November.

• **East London** - we are near to concluding a period of intensive research in and around the Whitechapel area, funded by the Wakefield Trust, and this we expect to lead to a whole new phase of Toc H work in this part of London. We also have positive indications from the Wakefield Trust to develop this new work, which is likely to be along the lines of the 'Families and People under Pressure' scheme.

• **Communications Review** - Sarah Claridge, Communications Officer/Editor, has now embarked upon a major review of all aspects of Toc H communications. This includes not only our processes of communication internally and externally, but also our publicity materials. Sarah will, I know, be interested to hear from anyone who has a view on this important subject (see page 6).

• **Central Registration** - we have taken on board the many comments we have received and I can assure you that next year we will make the process very much simpler - so simple in fact that I hope you will hardly know it has happened!

• **Insurance for over 80s** - following requests, the Finance and Properties sub-committee has investigated personal accident insurance for Members over 80 years of age. Neither our insurers nor others are prepared to give this cover. However all Toc H Members of any age are covered by our third-party liability.

• **Branch 'Constitution'** - Aims and Rules - we should shortly have available an appropriate document for Branches to adopt thus enabling them to make their own appeals to the National Lotteries Small Grants Board. This is now being finalised following final comment by the CEC.

• **Toc H Week** - as you probably know, we are proposing to introduce in the autumn of next year a Toc H Activities Week. It would be very helpful for me to know if your Branch or Group would be willing to participate in such a week. This is not just a fundraising activity (although fundraising is part of it). We want to put Toc H on the map, so please let me have your ideas.

My good wishes to you all.

*Mike Lyddiard*



## WITHIN THESE WALLS - A PROJECT AT HMP RANBY

**O**ver a weekend in late June a Project took place which was to be a resounding success. A resounding success because it captured the essence of Toc H and was a perfect illustration of Toc H's unique talent - our ability to bring people together from very different walks of life and subtly enable them to learn from, accept, encourage and develop each other.

The location of the Project was HMP Ranby - a category C prison whose inmates include those serving sentences for serious crime such as murder. The practical task in hand was to paint and decorate a designated part of the Chaplaincy area.

But as with all true Toc H Projects it had a deeper, more profound aim - to encourage the participants to interact with each other and explore their experiences and differences. The group consisted of six volunteers, including a graduate, a health worker and a probation officer; nine prisoners whose crimes ranged from drug abuse to murder, and the two Project Leaders, Roger Giles and Tom Elliott, staff from Division One. David Wakefield, the prison Chaplain, was also highly involved and provided the vital link between Toc H and the prison authorities.

Between 4 o'clock on the Friday afternoon and 12 o'clock on the Sunday, an experience took place which was to profoundly touch and move many of the participants. Highlights of their accounts, published over the next few pages, speak for themselves...

*Dear Mike*

24th June 1997

I am writing to you two days after the Toc H Projects Weekend at HMP Ranby. To use the word 'successful' would probably be the understatement of the year.....it was obvious how much the volunteers gained from the experience but even this was minimal when compared with the value of the weekend to the inmates involved. The painting part of the Project has added a great deal to the Chaplaincy area but this was over shadowed by the depth of the discussions which took place.....

We are now looking forward to another weekend like this.

*Yours sincerely*

*David Wakefield (Rev'd)*  
Chaplain

**T**his is one Toc H Project I will never forget. Travelling down to Retford on the train I had very mixed feelings of what to expect from the weekend at Ranby Prison. Would the residents be hostile towards us or resent us being there?

As we walked through the main gate I started to feel claustrophobic for the first time in my life. My heart was beating fast and hearing the gate close shut was terrifying, but I knew I would be walking back out again in a few hours. The people we were about to meet wouldn't be.

We met David (the Chaplain) who had made it possible for this Project to take place. Then we met the residents, each of us in turn saying who we were. They spoke of both their sentences and crimes. At all times they were open and glad to be part of the Project. We heard about their

A letter received by Mike Lyddiard, Director



## continued ...

experiences inside the prison and problems they had on the inside as well as on the outside. Talking to someone who is serving a life sentence makes you think about a lot of things, everyday things that we take for granted. The end result meant a lot more than the painting of the Chaplaincy corridor, it was about the life they had, how the system works or doesn't work, understanding we are all human - not "two-headed monsters" like one resident, who is serving life for murder, said to me. It became a very emotional weekend and saying goodbye was very hard. So much more could be done and hopefully it will if there is another Project like this one.

**Tina**

*Projects Officer for Winsford Community Action Group*



*a lot more than painting the Chaplaincy corridor*

## TOC H AT HMP RANBY

It was a weekend in June  
And I was over the moon  
As the Toc H group were coming  
We talked and we shared  
And they showed that they cared  
As people, they were very, very loving  
Some things before I would never share  
To them I would share so much  
And to have the chance to meet these guys  
It meant so very much  
On the last day they were here  
To the Chapel service they came  
And their smiles were as happy as can be  
To actually believe the love they had  
You had to be there like me  
To me I'll always remember  
The good time that we had  
I hope to see them all again  
As they made me very glad.

**Andy**

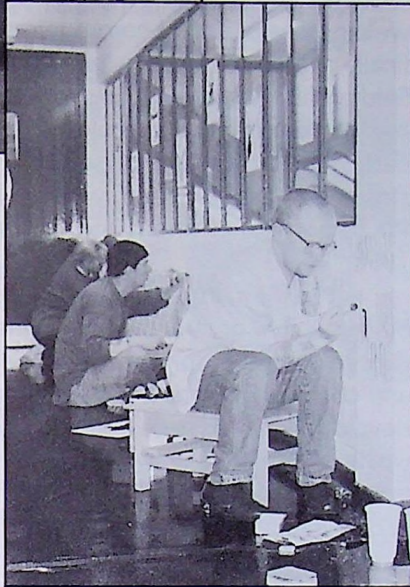
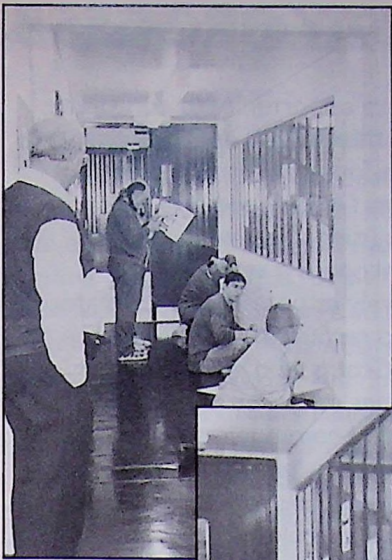
*HMP Ranby*

**S**ometimes in our lives we get the opportunity to meet people who normally we would never meet, or we come across people by chance.

It is important that we acknowledge our differences but also to realise that we are all human beings capable of many emotions. Something starts to happen when we connect on a one-to-one basis - an understanding develops. We start to realise that under different circumstances, faced with the same life experiences, we could well be the ones on the other side...

Even in a situation where men have not had any freedom for many years, there is still something which shines through. It is the human spirit they all possess, the willingness to connect at a deeper level. We all have a basic need to be accepted and understood





and we all have a right to be acknowledged. After the church service on Sunday morning, we, the volunteers, were all acknowledged. We shook hands with residents we had never spoken to (sometimes there is no need for words). This was a powerful emotional experience; for a split second we touched someone's life...

I know this won't be my last Toc H Project, although right now I can't imagine anything which will stir me deeper than this experience...

**Bernadette**  
*Cheshire*

**Roger and Tom are now working with colleagues to take the Ranby experience to other prisons including an open prison, a young offenders' institution and a women's prison.**

**F**or me personally, the whole experience of the weekend was getting to know other people.

People from all walks of life who basically just want to help others who are not so fortunate, plus having fun while doing so...

I've been interested in the sort of activities run by Toc H for a number of years, the only problem was I did not know how to get myself involved. Now I have all the information, my next step is making plans.

I am 35 years old. Ten of those years have been spent in one prison or another, and another ten of those years living at street level, in between fighting a drug addiction for twenty years. I really feel I have some experience to offer Toc H as a volunteer. If I could persuade one child from taking drugs or choosing the same path I did, then the twenty years of my life will not have been wasted for nothing.

To give back to society instead of taking from it is my next move. I know when I am discharged from prison next April, it will not be a bed of roses for me, but I have a positive attitude and I am thinking realistically...instead of living for today and to hell with tomorrow, I've now come to realise that you cannot go through life thinking that way. Life is too short to muck around with and take for granted. To get something out of life you must first put something back. I am hoping and praying that, in time, I can actively get involved with Toc H and the activities run by Toc H.....

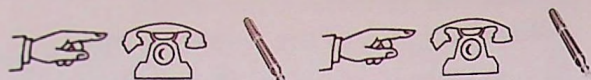
I would like to say again a big 'thank you' to all the Toc H Members who gave us their time, and who helped me to realise that you can have fun and enjoy life especially if you get involved with helping other people.....

Who knows, in time I could meet up again with some of the guests from this weekend on different Projects and under different circumstances. God bless Talbot House.

**Jeff**  
*HMP Ranby*



# COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY PROCESS



**C**ommunication: the study of ways in which human beings communicate, including speech, gesture, publishing and broadcasting media, etc\*

This short definition of communication goes some way to illustrating how broad and how powerful the field of communication is. All too often we forget the impact that even the simplest sentence, expression or gesture can have both on our neighbours and on the world at large. The implications of communication for an organisation - whether in the commercial or voluntary sector - are vast and affect every member and every aspect of it. More than just PR, marketing, or corporate image, communication has an impact on everything from staff morale to patronage and government support. It encompasses any two-way communication between a speaker and a listener.

As part of my remit as Communications Officer I have been asked to carry out a review of communications within Toc H to establish just how we currently employ this potent instrument, and what we can do to use it to its full potential. The ultimate aim of the Review is to enable me to draw up a three-year Communications Strategy which I hope will provide a clear and consistent focus for our activities in this field. I shall be looking at how we communicate both internally and externally - i.e. communication between ourselves in Toc H and also with the world outside. I want to assess **how** we carry out this communication (the methods we use such as literature, exhibitions, meetings, presentations, the internet, etc.) **why** we carry out these activities, **who** we address them to, and **what** we tell them.

I write "I" when perhaps I should use "we", because I will not be alone in carrying out this Review. I have working alongside me a committed team of Researchers - Toc H Members who have kindly volunteered to assist me in conducting the extensive research and consultation that is required. In addition, I hope you, the Members, will become involved in the Review by expressing your views. We aim to consult as widely as possible - both internally and externally - and would like as many Members as

possible to take this opportunity to contribute.

So what does this Review entail? Broadly speaking there are four strands to our Plan of Action. The first, as I mentioned above, is to consult individuals using questionnaires and interviews. The second is a series of Audits, looking as objectively as possible at our materials, activities, skills and resources. Thirdly, I hope to establish a Focus Group who will offer their thoughts and feelings on the strengths and weaknesses of Toc H communications. And finally, we need to study 'best practice' in the field and how we compare with other voluntary organisations. Once completed, the research data will need to be analysed to enable a draft strategy to be drawn up, which will then go on for Senior Management and CEC approval in 1998.

All this entails a lot of work, but I sincerely believe it will be worth it. Many in Toc H already recognise the importance and need for quality PR and communications if we are to grow and develop, and I do urge you to do your 'bit' towards the Review by completing a questionnaire for us. The Research Team will be in touch with Members asking them to complete questionnaires either individually, or collectively as a Branch, if preferred. Ideally we would like to reach all Members and staff but inevitably this may not be possible. So, if you don't hear from us over the next month or so - please make sure we hear from you. Questionnaires are available from any of our Researchers (listed below) or from myself here at Central Services. Communication is a two-way process - let's all start talking and listening to each other!

**Sarah Claridge**

*Communications Officer/Editor*

## The Communications Review Research Team

**Chris Williams**

82 Woden Avenue  
Wednesfield  
nr Wolverhampton  
Staffs WV11 1PW  
Tel: 01902 730482

**Tom McConnell**

19 Wells Road  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Leics LE65 2QD  
Tel: 01530 415134

**Bill Bains**

28 Rockingham Road  
Pendas Fields  
Leeds LS15 8UL  
Tel: 0113 640256

**Paula Everett-Clay**

15 Blyth Close  
Murdishaw  
Runcorn  
Cheshire WA7 6DN  
Tel: 01928 790633

\*Collins English Dictionary



# A DAY TO REMEMBER

**S**aturday July 12th 1997 - Ieper City Centre.....had it not been for the brilliant sunshine and oppressive heat, one could have mistakenly believed that the annual Armistice pilgrimage was already in full swing. The Grande Place filled with groups, large and small, some in curious uniforms and most weighed down with colourful arrays of medals and ribbons. The strains of music from the military band playing nearby competed with the general noise of traffic and people. The event shortly to take place was but a foretaste of a series of events planned for the following day to mark the 80th anniversary of the Third Battle of Ypres (July 31st - Nov 10th 1917) - the horrors of which are for many embodied in one word: Passchendaele.

That evening the sounding of the Last Post, and the additional ceremonies incorporated into it, drew crowds to the Menin Gate in excess, by my estimate, of 15,000. A good few succumbed to the sultry conditions, but the sprinkling of veterans took it all in their stride. As they had done in 1917, they held firm. Despite the general hubbub as folks jostled for position and cameras clicked and flashed, there were few for whom this appetiser did not bring a lump to the throat and a tear to the eye.

**Sunday July 13th.....**the main day of events dawned clear, bright and very warm. Normally Sunday mornings in this part of Belgium are gentle and somewhat laid back, but not today. By the time I arrived at Tyne Cott Military Cemetery, a good hour and a half before the 10.30 hrs scheduled start, streams of coaches, cars and pedestrians were already queuing down the narrow roads leading to the cemetery. By the main entrance the British Legion contingent was already forming up with a lone piper at its head. The haunting lament he played wafted gently through the neat rows of headstones, where early arrivals, pausing here and

there at one grave marker or another, were slowly making their way towards the semi-circle of stone plaques at the rear.

It was touching to note that almost every home on the way down to Tyne Cott was displaying both Belgian and British national flags. The occupants were in their gardens waving and clapping each and every one as they made their way towards the car parks.

By now the sun was fairly beating down and I felt more than a little sympathy for the British and Belgian military bands and guards of honour, resplendent in their dress uniforms. I spoke later to one of the British guardsmen, sweat streaming down his face. "The 'ottest parade I can recall," he stated, "An' these bloomin' busbys don't do nothin' to 'elp neither!"

The crowd, close on 12,000 according to some estimates, representing many nations, began to settle. Strangers rubbing shoulders with each other, exchanging greetings, sharing a connection with an event of 80 years ago that now brought them together, the strains of Jerusalem and Elgar's Nimrod adding to the atmosphere.

Once the local dignitaries and politicians, followed by the

senior clergy, top military brass and diplomats, were in place, the guest of honour, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and his party made their way towards the Sword of Sacrifice that dominates Tyne Cott. Royal salutes and national anthems preceded a simple but moving service conducted by the Bishop of Ieper and other participating clergy. There were words of prayer and words of reflection. The tragic events of 80 years ago were recalled, and the hopes for peace in the future expressed. Then, somewhere in the distance, one could just make out a droning sound that soon rose into a mighty roar. An RAF helicopter swept low over the gathering, poppies flooding out and down in its slipstream, falling gently towards the upturned faces.

By the time most of us had extricated



*His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent talks with Noel Cornick (President of the Talbot House Association), left, and Martine Boone (Liaison Officer).*



## continued ...

ourselves from the car parks, His Royal Highness was already back in leper enjoying the hospitality of the leper Civic Authority at the Cloth Hall. Meanwhile, the parade and accompanying crowds had re-gathered, marching in style to the Menin Gate in preparation for another service of commemoration. So dense was the throng, I opted to wait outside the Cloth Hall for the re-appearance of His Royal Highness where I had a front-row position. I was not disappointed. During this time several bystanders asked me what was happening. I had no problem with the English speakers, and even got by with the French. However a couple from Moscow (well I think that is what they said) defeated me.

**1500 hrs, Talbot House...** anticipation. The secret servicemen had 'done' the house from top to bottom, inside and out. Complete with sniffer dog, they were a tough-looking bunch and would, I fancy, have given any rugby pack a good run for their money! At exactly the appointed time, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent arrived at the

great doors of the Old House, loudly clapped by onlookers who had gathered on the street and warmly welcomed by those who waited within. After a full tour of the house with Jaques Ryckebosch in sparkling form, the Duke then joined the rest of us in the garden where he had time for a handshake and word with everyone.

"I don't hear so much about Toc H these days," he said to me after we had been introduced.

"No Sir," I replied, "but I believe over the next few years you most certainly will be hearing a great deal more!"

"Good," the Duke responded, "good, we need organisations like Toc H."

The Duke was soon on his way again to yet another reception, followed by a special service in St George's Memorial Church back in leper. For the rest of us never was a cup of Talbot House tea so welcome! This had certainly been a day to remember.

**Mike Lyddiard**

## BROADWAY BRANCH 1933-1997

*Jim Jones, Branch Secretary reports on the demise of the Broadway Branch. Although, understandably, sad in tone, it highlights the hard work and commitment of members over many years. They have done a grand job and have a lot to be proud of.*

"This is a short account of Broadway's activities which, because of declining membership, deaths and ill health, has been compelled to close...

"For the first few years the Branch carried out small pieces of community work. From 1939, with depleted membership due to war service commitments, Branch activities were devoted to assisting service personnel by running a canteen, dances, concerts and adopting a naval submarine and providing a wireless-set for the infants school.

"The immediate post-war years saw membership increase remarkably, which gave us more scope. One project was the provision of a bus shelter in the High Street, which is still giving great service. Another shelter was added in 1996 on another site.

"A scheme was started in 1961 to visit the sick, elderly and lonely of the village. A flashing-light system to offer comfort and security to local residents began, which meant manufacturing some 150 lamps and installing them in homes. Logging in the local woods provided fuel for some 200 people aged 65 and over. The logs were a supplement to a Christmas parcel. The parcels scheme was later replaced by a food token and ran for about forty years. In later years a local farmer also gave four tons of potatoes to us for delivery.

"I have enumerated some of the major achievements which perhaps overshadow the personal efforts of individual Members which include visiting the sick, gardening, and hedge cutting. These activities have not, however, stopped the Branch enjoying a social life of Guest nights, ladies' nights, cricket matches and fetes.

"This is a sad time for Broadway & Toc H but it must be admitted we are not the only organisation suffering lack of support. Regretfully, but with thanks for past endeavours, there is now no Branch for Toc H in Broadway."



## **SOUTH COAST BRANCHES GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER**

**A**s members of the Bournemouth and Christchurch Branches, we spent an extremely happy afternoon with the Weymouth Women's Branch on 3rd June. They own a delightful Toc H hall, and made us extremely welcome.

We were very privileged to have Mark Stubbs, one of the two Firemen Rowers of the "Toc H Phoenix" competing in "The Atlantic Challenge", come and talk of the venture. Mark is an outstanding character, as is his rowing partner Steve Isaacs, and he spent some time explaining in detail what the challenge entails. Several Members were present when "Toc H Phoenix" was launched, so we could visualise the very cramped conditions they will experience once they start the race.

The Weymouth ladies put on a wonderful spread for us all, and Mark was able to have a taste before dashing back to Bournemouth to start night duty at 6pm.

I'm sure we all felt very humble at the work and enthusiasm they are showing, so "Thank you Weymouth" for inviting us, and giving us such an inspiring afternoon.

**Sheila Gates**

*Secretary - Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch*

## **BUSKING IN 'BUSKERLAND'**



**P**ictured here are Emma Luck and Sarah Hill of Oldfield Girls School, Bath, raising money for the West Somerset District Project 'Caring for the Carer' to be held at Lindridge House in August.

## **CHARD BRANCH GUEST NIGHT...**

**at The Guildhall on May 14th 1997**



*photo: D. Wheddon*

*Picture left to right in front row, Cyril Brent, Doris Bowditch, Janet Russell (all Crewkerne), Joan Till, Bill Corrick (Chairman), Dorothy Weaver, Tom Miller & Phyllis Crick (Chard).*

*Middle row, John Perkins (Regional Secretary), Phyllis Corrick, Dennis Till (both Chard) & Eric Bowditch (Crewkerne).*

*Rear row, Wilfred Cox and Stan Smart (both Chard).*

## **SHIRE GREEN BRANCH RECEIVES THE LAMP**

**O**n 5th June Shire Green member Miss Sylvia Pratt (below left) received the Branch lamp from Mrs Jessie Ashford of Rawmarsh to mark Shire Green Group's recognition as a Branch.





## 1997 STAFF GATHERING

**J**ust over 30 members of Toc H staff gathered at the All Saints Pastoral Centre in St Albans in June for what was to prove a highly stimulating and worthwhile two days. A carefully, cleverly crafted programme resulted in a mix of informative presentations and lively debate on topical issues as well as some time devoted to teambuilding exercises.

Topics on the agenda included pensions - with a talk from the representative of The Pensions Trust - and Health and Safety at Work - with some useful information being imparted by John Biggerstaff. Discussion sessions were themed on the subjects of communication, consultation and

information technology, while the training workshops focused on recruitment, how people behave in groups, training, and the use of modules, plus real life fundraising. All produced invaluable suggestions and advice along with the possibility of some funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation through the attendance of their representative, John Aldridge. The opportunity to spend time exploring colleagues' experiences, opinions and respective roles enabled staff to develop that all-important team spirit.

Credit and our thanks go to John Biggerstaff for arranging and co-ordinating an excellent event, and to our invited guests for giving up their time to attend our gathering.

## A FIRST ANNIVERSARY

**F**our members of Higham Ferrers Women's Branch were initiated into Toc H a year ago this month by Tom Elliott, Chaplain/Development Officer, Division I. Long may their membership last.



Members pictured with Tom are, from left to right: Mrs Betty Driscoll, Mrs. Lilian Girling, Mrs. Ivy Davies-Cox and Mrs. Wilhelmina Williams.

## SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT VISIT TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

**S**outhampton District Members (pictured below) visited Winchester Cathedral for probably their last meeting. They were taken on a guided tour by Cathedral guides, and after tea in the nearby Refectory, homegoing prayers were led by Archdeacon, Alec Knight.



## PARKHURST WOMEN'S BRANCH MARK FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR DAY

**A** wonderful day was had on Saturday 14th June by Parkhurst Branch to mark Friends of Khasdobir day, raising the grand sum of £662.

There was great excitement in the camp from 8.30am, with cars arriving to unload their goodies. The hall took shape very quickly, with doors opening at 10 am. A wonderful array of cakes, bric-a-brac, tombola, raffles, etc were on offer, not to mention a welcome cup of coffee or tea. From 11.30 am

onwards ploughman lunches were served, all donated by Members.

During the morning flyers and balloons were distributed round the town, also a sandwich board advertising the event went about. The local radio broadcast the event, the local paper carried an advert, and even the church magazine carried a two-page advert.

**Jackie Ramage**  
Isle of Wight



## DIVISION ONE STAFF THANK YOU

**D**ivision one Staff Team supported Volunteers Week by organising 'Recognition' events to acknowledge the incredible difference Toc H Members and volunteers make to our society by giving their time, energy and commitment freely to benefit others.

These recognition events were held throughout the week in each District in the Division that expressed an interest. "Thank you" certificates were presented to each and every Branch in the District. "Thank you" is an often forgotten courtesy, and as staff we wanted to give credit to every Branch whose Members make a contribution to their community through Toc H.

Also presented were Volunteer Week Outstanding Contribution Certificates. Nominations were invited for individuals in each District who make an outstanding contribution to their community through their membership. One such award-winner was Kate Moss, a Member from Barton on Humber. Kate is one of the Movement's youngest Central Councillors, a member of the Division one DDT and is active in supporting development and fundraising initiatives across the Division.

**Stuart Wroe**  
*Fundraising Officer, Division 1*



*Kate receiving her Certificate from the Very Revd. Dr Brandon D Jackson, The Dean of Lincoln.*

## CREWKERNE CARNIVAL FLOAT

**O**ne of the ideas that originated from Daphne Dawes' (Chairman, South West Region) "Dreams" for the future, to help publicise Toc H, was to enter a float in Crewkerne Carnival. This was met with cries of impossible from some in the Branch, but David said, "I can get a tractor and trailer." Cyril said, "I can do the painting." Ricky said, "I can do the transportation." Eric said, "I can get the Army Uniforms." Phyllis said, "I can make the banners and the costumes." With this response, what else could we do but fill in the entry form? With David as 'boss man' things started to take shape. The men spent many an evening

hammering, banging, making sandbags and guns etc. and great fun seemed to be had by all. Following a plea for white sheets, Phyllis made two 22ft 6in banners (the length of the float) and four nurses' aprons. Eric and Ricky shook the dust from genuine ex-World War uniforms.

The carnival theme was 'History through the ages'. Our float, entitled 'From Conflict to Hope', depicted a gun-pit with sandbags, and a Lance Corporal and Private complete with puttees and tin mug, sitting outside the 'Old House'. Behind these were four attractive ladies in their VAD uniforms, linking Toc H with the Blood Donors' scheme. Behind these sat other members of the Branch wearing their Toc H sweatshirts, led by David in his cassock, as a SLIM Clayton.

Fortunately the weather was kind, and the crowds who were out greeted the Toc H float with applause and cheers throughout the procession. The biggest surprise was yet to come, when the float was awarded second prize in the senior section.

Extra thanks to Chris and Tim who walked the three miles with the collecting buckets, handing out Toc H literature en route. Well done to all concerned - at least we have twelve months to plan next year's entry!

**Phyllis & Doris**  
*Crewkerne Branch*



*The Crewkerne Branch float*

## WEDDING BELLS

**T**ony Cock, Regional Secretary and member of Hythe Branch, was married in May to Barbara Hawkin. Tony & Barbara have known each other for a year and Barbara is beginning to take an interest in Toc H and the work of Regional Secretary by answering the telephone while Tony is at work. Barbara now joins Tony on many of the Toc H meetings and is helping with the Toc H stamp appeal.





## A FESTIVAL OF VOLUNTEERING

**D**uring National Volunteers Week Toc H took part in a Festival of Volunteering at the Davenant Centre, East London - the building where much of our work in the East End of London is based.

The festival consisted of music, street performers, face painting, food stalls and displays, providing fun and information for hundreds of local visitors. Toc H's contribution was a stand exhibiting the work of Toc H in the local community.



The Toc H stand in all its glory.



The Mayor, Councillor Joe Ramanoop, with Toc H literature under his arm

## MAY DAYS IN OXFORD

**A** Project to build a raised flower-bed took place in early May in Oxford. It wasn't the driest or the warmest of weekends, but volunteers stuck at it, and their efforts have provided the local Occupational Therapy Department with a much valued extra facility.

The flower bed is designed to be accessible to those in wheelchairs and everyone can no doubt look forward to some colourful blooms later in the year, once some of the more green-fingered patients have had a chance to get to work - in fact they've already put in some alpine plants. The cost of the timber and other materials was generously met by the Oxford Isis Rotary Club.



Eyes down - there's work to do!





**Keith Watson's article in June's Point 3 has triggered some healthy pride in the impressive ages of many of our members.**

- Congratulations to Lindley Men's Branch on their becoming "927 years young" as various members of their Branch celebrate their 80th birthday. However, the members of Cheltenham (Joint) Branch feel moved to say - with just a touch of friendly rivalry - that when it comes to members' ages our "vital statistics" are even more remarkable than theirs. Of our 14 members, eight are over 80 years old and one is coming up to 93 this year. In fact, only five of our members are UNDER 80 years old, with the writer of this note being the "baby" of the Branch at a mere 73! Our combined ages amount to an astonishing 1,163 years, making an average age for the Branch of 83 years compared with Lindley's 77.

Although there is only one zimmer frame at our meetings, the "activity" of the Branch is obviously somewhat restricted, but for the last 10 years we have arranged an annual summer outing for housebound people in Cheltenham and some of our lady members and men's wives have been busy knitting little tank-tops for Rwandan refugee children; to date nearly 200 have been sent to Africa.

Cheltenham Branch is 75 years old this year, having been started in 1920 but only received its lamp (and thereby being recognised as a Branch) on December 15th 1922. And I respectfully claim that, as well as being the oldest provincial Branch of Toc H, we have also the oldest "collection" of Members within the Movement - that is, unless there is someone out there who knows better!

**Eric G Varley**  
Cheltenham

- Keith Watson's letter in June's Point 3 prompts in the hearts of Nailsea (M) the desire to cry to Lindley (M) - as we would have done in days of yore - GET SOME IN! Our fifteen members total 1,183 years - an average of something over 78. Our youngest and only surviving founder-member is 68, our oldest and also newest recruit, rising 91. This latter member glories in his soubriquet of "Biggles", earned when he spent part of his 89th birthday scrambling round an aircraft on a Branch visit to an RAF Station. Thirteen of the membership recently completed three days of collection for Alexandra Rose Day. There are six other Members over eighty, but we don't make a fuss about it, we're just grateful to still be here.

**S G Doorey**  
Nailsea

- May I quote from a paper brought out by "Churches together in England":  
"The government of the United Kingdom, through the Millennium Commission is investing hundreds of millions of pounds into marking the Millennium. Already vast sums have been committed for the development of a wide range of projects, all of which are intended to enhance the life of communities. Throughout the whole of the year AD 2000 a great exhibition/festival will be held at Greenwich with the hope of attracting some 15,000,000 visitors.

"Yet the year 2000 is first and foremost a pointer back to the historical fact of Jesus Christ. If the Churches do not play a prominent part in the celebrations, this fact will be lost and perhaps the greatest opportunity in our lifetime for witnessing to the Christian faith will be lost with it."

So I hope that Toc H, together with the Churches in every region and neighbourhood, will find their own ways of bringing home the true meaning of the year 2000 to the communities to which they belong.

**Brenda Wallis**  
Weymouth

- Although it is some time since Christmas 1996, I have something which I feel I should share with fellow Members. I have been a Member now for four years and also have been on several Toc H Projects. Because of a lack of anything happening in the Northern Region, I found that I had to look outside the Movement. I found by chance (or perhaps it was put in my way) a group working with those living and working on the streets of Manchester. I volunteered for their Christmas project which was a massive project, during which no less than 6,000 meals were made together with a free clothing store, free haircuts, welfare advice and some medical attention. One of the best ways I have ever found of celebrating Christ's birth.

Although this group (Lifeshare is their name) suffer the usual problems lack of volunteers, funds etc., they do endeavour to take a soup run out every night of the year and a tea run (which I do once a week) for four nights of the week which is part of their Harm Prevention Project i.e free needles and condoms to the working girls etc. Although this group claims to be non-religious, I do believe God walks very closely with them and the group does seem to fulfil the criteria that Toc H believes in.

**Roger Adams-Yield**  
Derbyshire

Look out for an article in next month's issue on a Toc H Project which worked with the homeless in Paisley, Scotland.



## CHANGES TO TOC H MEMBERSHIP

### *fresh faces and fond farewells*

**E**very Member makes an invaluable, individual contribution to Toc H. In a regular feature, Point 3 acknowledges both those who are new to membership and those who sadly have passed on. In welcoming new Members we hope to give you a flavour of the person behind the name by listing the 'hidden talents' individuals have told us about on their application form. The Tributes and Farewells provide a limited opportunity to recognise the individual contributions made by those whose membership has sadly come to a close.

## WELCOMES

- **Roger Martin**, member of Ayr Branch. Roger trained as an engineering mechanic and is interested in music, history and railway modelling.
- **Connie Fowler**, member of Birmingham District.
- **Gareth Williams**, member of Birmingham District. Gareth is a musician.
- **Celia Elsworth**, member of Bletchley Branch. Celia is involved with MIND.
- **Victor Ball**, member of Buckingham Branch. Victor is a retired optician.
- **Joseph Bourne**, member of Buckingham Branch. Joseph is a retired police officer.
- **Margaret Bourne**, member of Buckingham Branch. Margaret is a retired teacher.
- **Albert Sutton**, member of Buckingham Branch. Albert has worked as a care assistant.
- **Anthony Allen**, member of Gloucester Branch.
- **Jane Roberts**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Wendy Sefton-Rawson**, member of Halton Branch.
- **Peter Twiss**, member of Hoveton & Wroxham Branch.
- **Josephine Haslewood**, member of Kings Norton & Northfield Branch. Josephine is a linguist in French & German.
- **Judith Hodgekinson**, member of Llandudno Friendship Circle.
- **Jeffrey Clark**, member of North East Projects Group.
- **Francis Chown**, member of New Tees Group. Francis admires exotic animals.
- **Averil Stevenson**, member of North West/North Wales Region.
- **Meirion Roberts**, member of Old Colwyn Friendship Circle. Meirion is an artist.
- **Daisy Clark**, member of Rushden Branch.
- **Yvonne Gilby**, member of Rushden Branch.
- **Helga Hatt**, member of Sheaf (Sheffield) Branch. Helga has been secretary for various charities.
- **Pam Elliott**, member of Skipton Branch. Pam enjoys working with young people, music and drama.
- **Fiona Norton**, member of Skipton Branch.
- **Gordon Reid**, member of Skipton Branch.
- **Janet Hartill**, member of South Staffs & Wulfrun District.
- **Ian Harper**, member of Tyne & Wear Branch. Ian enjoys many sports including football and tennis.

## TRIBUTES

- **Doug Bagnall**, a member of Walsall Branch, since the late '60s. A mortuary technician by profession, he regaled tales to Branch members on a number of memorable occasions - it has to be said - to their considerable entertainment! Always referred to as "little Doug" to distinguish him from another member, Doug Ridgway, he was extremely well-read, interesting company and also a very regular member of our many extended Branch outings to Europe, Asia and North Africa. He is remembered most fondly and will be missed greatly. **MB**
- **Evelyn May Corbett**, an active Member of Toc H for quite some years. Originally she was at Wolverhampton Branch, then later at Bromborough and finally the Wallasey Branch. She will be greatly missed. **PM**
- **Dennis Dobson**. He will be greatly missed by fellow members of Looe Branch. **SU**
- **Alan James**, a much loved, faithful member and Chairman of Alfreton Branch for 9 years. His irrepressible good humour and exemplary attendance were an example to us all. **JB**
- **Nellie Wardleworth**, the founder of the women's section of Toc H in Oldham. **LM**

- **Reg Bailey**, member of Burraton Branch, Cornwall from 1950 to 1963, taking an active part in their Concert Party. He belonged to Plympton Branch from 1963 to 1984 and joined their numerous activities at the Plymouth Cheshire Home. **WT**
- **Albert Edward Harrington**, a founder member of Bletchley Men's Branch in capacity of Pilot, Jobmaster, Treasurer and Secretary, he master-minded the Branch's Scented Garden Project over a period of two years. After a short absence, he found, on his return, the Branch floundering after the meeting room had been gutted by fire. He immediately set about re-organising the Branch. In true Tubby Clayton style, he called upon his former business contacts, secured a loan from Toc H and had the building restored well within budget. In his earlier years Albert and his wife set up a scheme for friends of Toc H to contribute to local charities. This scheme is still being operated by the Branch. A Toc H man through and through, we have a lot to thank him for. **BH**
- **Rev. Roger Heywood-Waddington**, the Padre of the Kidderminster Branch and then Padre of the newly formed Wyre Forest Branch, he was an enthusiast for the work of Toc H and was well-known for his cheerful approach to life, in spite of his physical disability, from which he had suffered for many years. He was a much loved parish priest and I, for one, will miss him as a colleague. **WE**
- **Doris Goodman**, a founder member of the original Bletchley Ladies Branch and prominent member of the present Bletchley Joint Branch. She was formerly Branch Pilot and a regular visitor to incapacitated members. An energetic member at all functions, her generosity was unparalleled where Toc H was concerned. She will be sadly missed by all members. **BS**
- **Brian Luke**, A faithful member of the Chalfonts Branch since 1959 and one-time Secretary. He had a remarkable gift with words and rhyme and a great way with numbers. We miss his contribution to Branch life and we will remember him. **EP**
- **Len Dooley**, founder member of New Addington Branch. He was involved with all the Branch activities, such as setting up Christmas dinners for the elderly, and served as Treasurer, Secretary and Job Master. The Branch salutes a very spendid gentleman with tremendous admiration. **MR**

## FAREWELLS

- **Reginald Bailey**, member of Burraton Branch
- **Eileen Bannerman**, member of Coupar Angus Branch
- **Leonard Dooley**, member of Springfields District
- **Evelyn Corbett**, member of Wallasey Branch
- **Dennis Dobson**, member of Looe Branch
- **Albert Harrington**, member of Late Bletchley Branch
- **Margaret Linger**, member of Bedford Branch
- **Gerald Tozer**, member of Lindley Branch
- **Kathleen Read**, member of Enfield Branch
- **Doris Goodman**, member of Bletchley Branch
- **John Goodwin**, member of Chiseldon Branch
- **Mai Hammond**, member of Llandudno Branch
- **'Peggy' Hudson**, member of Huddersfield Branch
- **Donald Kirkpatrick**, member of Swindon District
- **Marianne Sergeant**, member of Dover Branch
- **Danny Scully**, member of Buckingham Branch
- **Stanley Dickens**, member of Northants District
- **G Kestell-Cornish**, member of Somerset Branch
- **Alan Pitts**, member of Loddon Vale District
- **Roger Waddington**, member of Marches District
- **John Wise**, member of Late Hartley Wintney Branch



## • APPEAL FOR MORE SPECTACLES

For many years the North Walsham Branch has collected used spectacles from all over the UK and despatched them all over the world. The spectacles have been sent as far away as Tonga, Africa, India and East European countries. We have received letters of gratitude - even invitations to visit their countries. It is especially gratifying to read of one happy recipient who is rejoicing because he can now see to read his Bible again.

The need for spectacles is still very great. We say a big thank you to all who have sent them in the past and we are now appealing to you again to send us more spectacles so that we can continue to help. Please send your spectacles (without cases) to the following address:  
P. Pashley (Secretary to North Walsham Branch)  
29 The Bungalow, Angel Court, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0DN.

## • NOTELETS

Pack of eight (2 of each of 4 designs) - overprinted on the back with Toc H logo. Cost: £1.75 per packet (including p & p). Available from Daphne Dawes, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1TQ

## • WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT

The Message and Orders of Service will be available from the beginning of September and distributed in the normal manner. Anyone wishing to obtain further copies can do so from the National Chaplain at Central Services.

## • TALBOT BEARS

These and the accompanying paperwork are stored at the home of Daphne Dawes. If any Group/Branch wishes to fundraise by placing a Bear in a pub, shop etc, please apply to Daphne, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1TQ

## WHAT'S ON

*a guide to forthcoming Toc H events and opportunities*

## • CRAFTY WEEKEND

*10th - 12th October  
Lindridge House*

Edith White and Phyllis Wright welcome anyone who would like to try glass-painting, crochet, tatting, or making Christmas decorations. Cost: £30 (deposit £10 by end of Sept please). Contact: - Mrs E White 15 Cranhill Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0BY  
Tel: 01458 445203

## • TOC H SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

*11th - 12th October  
Dunblane, Perthshire*

All are welcome at this annual gathering. A good opportunity to experience typical Toc H fellowship and home-spun fun in the surroundings of Scottish Churches House, adjacent to the Cathedral. Guest Speaker: Helen James, Chair of Toc H. Cost: £35.00. Details: Isabella Baird, Regional Secretary, 32 Rannoch Road, Methil, Leven, Fife. KY8 3JD Tel: 01333 424138

## • TOC H CAROL SERVICE

*13th December at 2.30pm  
All Hallows Church, London*

Further details: Connie Pring, 39 Princes Plain, Bromley Common, Kent BR2 8LH  
Tel: 0181 462 8164 (after 7pm)

## • COLSTERDALE OPEN DAY

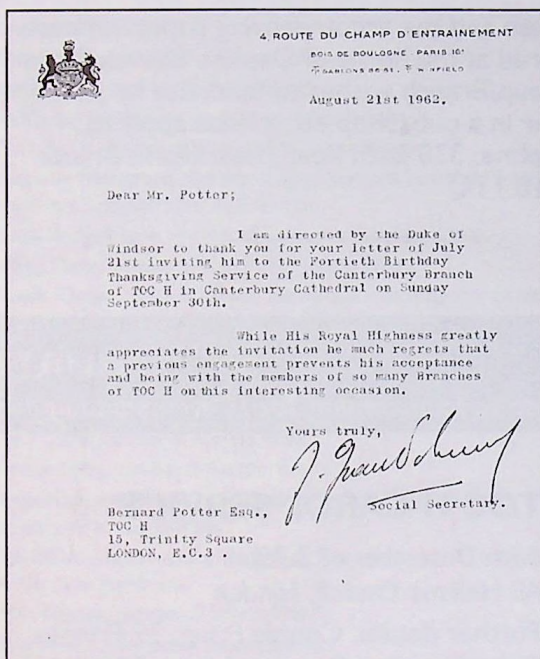
*11th October  
12.00 noon - 4.00pm (12.30pm onwards:  
Buffet Lunch 3.00pm: Charity Auction)*

Come and enjoy the peace and quiet of Colsterdale in the Autumn. Renew old acquaintances, make new friends. Please bring something for the Auction in aid of the Colsterdale Building Fund. Details from: Keith Crocker, The Toc H Centre, Colsterdale, Nr Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 4NN  
Tel: 01756 689382



Over the years Toc H has been fortunate to count among its supporters and patrons a number of members of the Royal Family. Patronage and interest from such a highly respected source has done much to further the cause of the Movement and it is an interest which has been very much of a personal, rather than a formal nature. Illustrations of this close personal

involvement are a letter and telegram, which lie in the archives, from the late Duke of Windsor. The missives from France, reproduced here, are in response to an invitation from the Canterbury Branch to attend their 40th Birthday Thanksgiving Service on 30th September 1962. In addition I have tracked down an account of the service at Canterbury Cathedral, to put the correspondence in context. SC.



The letter which declines the Canterbury Branch's invitation

Forty-one years ago Canterbury Branch was born in the Precincts of the Cathedral, and on Sunday, September 30, celebrated its 40th Birthday with a thanksgiving service in the Cathedral. A procession of thirty-nine banners, entering by the West Door, represented Branches in Kent, Sussex, S.E. London and from as far afield as Durham. Following the address, given by the Founder Padre, the Ceremony of Light

was conducted by Bishop A.C. W. Rose. After the service a buffet tea was served in the Frank Hooker School and the 700 guests were welcomed by the Branch chairman, Peter Lewsey. Among the many telegrams of good wishes was one from the Duke of Windsor who had first lit the Canterbury Branch Lamp in the Albert Hall in 1922. In the evening there was a concert by the Snowdon Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir assisted by solo artists. 'Tubby' read letters of appreciation for the work the Branch had done during its forty years in Canterbury, and Homegoing prayers were led by the Area Padre, the Rev. Clifford Pollard.

J McQuie

Extract from the November issue of the Toc H Journal, 1962

Charges to pay s. d.	POST OFFICE	
RECEIVED	TELEGRAM	
Prefix: Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.		
At _____ m	From PO C AND W LDN 1170 SEN 533 DIARRITZ 464 27 0059	At _____ m
By _____	BERNARD POTTER THE GAP NACKINGTON CANTERBURY ANGLETERRE	
MY BEST WISHES TO THE CANTERBURY BRANCH TOC H ON THE OCCASION OF FORTIETH BIRTHDAY THANKSGIVING SERVICE - DUKE OF WINDSOR		
<small>For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.</small>		

The Duke of Windsor's telegram